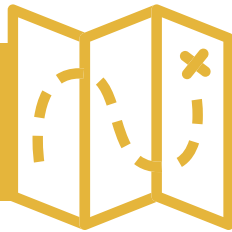


# STUDY PLAN



## Microsoft MCSA: Windows Server 2012 70-411 R2

Total Videos: **34**    Time: **9 hours\***

\*The time indicated above represents the total time to view all videos in the course, but does not include time spent using virtual labs, practice exams, embedded quizzes, etc.

## Microsoft MCSA: Windows Server 2012

The [Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate \(MCSA\): Windows Server 2012](#) certification is intended to equip learners with the skills and knowledge needed to install and configure, administer, as well as design and manage advanced services in Windows Server 2012. The MCSA: Windows Server 2012 certification is made up of three exams, all of which are covered by CBT Nuggets training:

- [70-410 - Installing and Configuring Windows Server 2012](#);
- [70-411 - Administering Windows Server 2012](#); and
- [70-412 - Configuring Advanced Windows Server 2012 Services](#).

Typically, learners pursuing this certification path should have some familiarity with Windows Server and experience working in an enterprise environment. Most often, learners have 1-3 years of experience in IT before beginning their MCSA pursuits. The MCSA is considered an intermediate-level certification, though there is no formal prerequisite for this MCSA certification.

## Exam Details

**Time allotted for exam:** 2 hours (120 minutes)

**Number of questions:** 40-60\*

**Passing score:** 700\*\*

**Question types:** Multiple choice; multiple choice/multiple answer; scenario

**Exam registration:** [Microsoft Learning](#) or [Pearson Vue](#)

**Exam cost:** \$165 (USD)

**Skills measured:** Each exam registration page on the Microsoft website provides a list of Skills Measured (free resource) to guide your study and preparation.

- [70-411](#)

**Exam Replay:** Microsoft exams have a reputation for being challenging. Many learners find they have to take an exam more than once to achieve a successful outcome. Fortunately, Microsoft is aware of the level of challenge associated with their exams, and often provides an “[Exam Replay](#),” allowing learners to retake exams at a fraction of the usual cost. Please note that the Exam Replay may not always be available.

*\*Microsoft does not publish the exact number of questions associated with its exams. Therefore, the number of questions a learner will see varies on a case-by-case basis.*

*\*\*Because the number of questions varies, it is not necessarily true that learners must earn a simple 70% to pass the exam.*

## STUDY STRATEGIES

Learners use a great variety of strategies to attack their training. Here are some options you can choose from to get the most out of your training experience:

Proceed through all CBT Nuggets video training on double-speed to develop a strong overview of the material; then proceed through all the training for a second time, taking good notes and focusing on deeper learning.

**OR**

Proceed through all CBT Nuggets video training, taking good notes and focusing on deep learning on the first pass; then proceed back through all training a second time, using double-speed when appropriate.

Supplement all video training with book study and practical application of knowledge.

Use the hands-on virtual labs throughout the course to practice your skills.

Learn more about how to get all you can out of your practice exam experience from a quick video by Keith Barker



## PRACTICE EXAM STRATEGIES

CBT Nuggets offers practice exams as part of your subscription. You can take the practice exams as many times as you like! Here are some tips to help you take full advantage of this excellent resource:

### ! PLAN TO TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM 3 TIMES

#### FIRST EXAM

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Create a baseline against which you can measure your progress with future exams.

Identify areas of weakness in order to direct your training as you move forward.

#### SECOND EXAM

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Measure your progress since your first practice exam! Ask yourself: Are you retaining the information and material you learned at the beginning of your training? Are there areas to which you should return now to ensure your understanding before moving forward?

The results from your second practice exam experience should help you identify areas where you may need to spend extra effort and energy in the training ahead.

#### THIRD EXAM

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Measure your progress against your first two practice exams! Ask yourself: Are you scoring 90% by now? If so, you might be ready for the real

Allow the results from your practice exam to direct your review ahead of your certification exam. Ask yourself: Are you retaining all the material? And are you understanding it well?

KEY

6. Implement Patch Management

22 30-90

The duration of the video in minutes. Time required to complete a virtual lab in minutes.

The number and title for each video corresponds to the number and title you will find on the Microsoft MCSA: Windows Server 2012 70-411 R2 course page online (and on your mobile device)

The Extra Mile section of your study plan challenges you to dig a little deeper with your training. The Extra Mile might be a textbook recommendation, supplemental materials downloads, or other resources to help you take your training to the next level. Nothing in the Extra Mile is required, but it is here to help you learn.



“Your virtual lab experience will vary throughout the course, depending on the exam objectives and your learning style and needs. Each virtual lab could take anywhere from 10-90 minutes.”  
- Garth Schulte



Microsoft MCSA: Windows Server 2012 70-411 R2

WEEK 1

1. Introduction to 70-411: Administering Windows Server 2012 R2  
2. The Deploy Manage and Maintain Servers Section  
3. Install and Configure Windows Deployment Services (WDS)

21 30-90

4. Deploy and Manage Server Images

22 30-90

5. Install and Configure Windows Server Update Services (WSUS)

12 30-90

6. Implement Patch Management

22 30-90

7. Monitor Servers

22 30-90

EXTRA MILE

Explore the [Microsoft Learning website](#) to learn more about the 70-411 exam, its requirements, and available resources.

Review the [skills measured](#) by the 70-411 exam. (Consider printing out the exam objectives to help guide your study!)

Consider purchasing a textbook to supplement your training.

- [MCSA Windows Server 2012 R2 Complete Study Guide: Exams 70-410, 70-411, 70-412](#), by William Panek
- [MCSA Windows Server 2012 R2 Administration Study Guide: Exam 70-411](#), by William Panek
- [Exam Ref 70-411 Administering Windows Server 2012 R2](#), by Charlie Russel

WEEK 2

8. The Configure and Print Services Section

9. Install and Configure Distributed File System (DFS)

▶ 22 📦 30-90

10. Manage Distributed File System (DFS)

▶ 20 📦 30-90

11. Configure File Server Resource Manager (FSRM)

▶ 21 📦 30-90

12. Configure File and Disk Encryption

▶ 23 📦 30-90

13. Configure Advanced Audit Policies

▶ 18 📦 30-90

EXTRA MILE

Join the [CBT Nuggets Learner Community](#) on Slack! Join other CBT Nuggets learners in a community where you can post questions, share study resources, connect with IT experts from all over the world, and get mentoring for your training.

*\*Please allow 48 hours for your request to join the community to be processed.*

Learn more about [Windows Deployment Services Cmdlets](#) in PowerShell from Microsoft's TechNet. Go deeper with your learning about [Windows Server Update Services](#) from Microsoft's TechNet.

Create flashcards to quiz yourself on the content from your training! Or, use existing flashcard resources such as [quizlet.com!](#)

WEEK 3

14. The Configure Network Services and Access Section

15. Configure DNS Zones

▶ 26 📦 30-90

16. Configure DNS Records

▶ 19 📦 30-90

TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!

📄 90-120

17. Install and Configure Remote Access

▶ 15 📦 30-90

18. Configure VPN

▶ 17 📦 30-90

EXTRA MILE

TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!

Use the results to drive your review and practice as you continue your study\*.

- [Transcender Microsoft Cert - 70-411](#)

*\*Keep in mind that you've not completed the training yet, so you probably won't ace the exam. This is just to help you assess how well you are retaining the material you've learned so far!*

Optional Supplemental Learning: Consider watching these additional courses to deepen your understanding of PowerShell.

- [PowerShell 4 Foundations with trainer Garth Schulte](#) (22 videos)

WEEK 4

19. Configure Web Application Proxy

▶ 12 📦 30-90

20. Configure DirectAccess

▶ 23 📦 30-90

21. The Configure a Network Policy Server (NPS) Infrastructure Section  
22. Configure Network Policy Server

▶ 26 📦 30-90

23. Configure NPS Policies

▶ 13 📦 30-90

24. Configure Network Access Protection

▶ 19 📦 30-90

EXTRA MILE

Learn more about [Web Application Proxy](#) from Microsoft's TechNet.

Take some time this week to return to virtual labs that were challenging to see if you've developed the skills to be more successful with them now.

**"The results you achieve will be in direct proportion to the effort you apply."**

- Denis Waitley

WEEK 5

25. The Configure and Manage Active Directory Section

26. Configure Service Authentication

▶ 23 📦 30-90

27. Configure Domain Controllers

▶ 25 📦 30-90

TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!

📄 90-120

28. Maintain Active Directory

▶ 24 📦 30-90

29. Configure Account Policies

▶ 11 📦 30-90

EXTRA MILE

**TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!**

Use the results to drive your review and practice as you continue your study\*.

- [Transcender Microsoft Cert - 70-411](#)

*\*You still haven't completed your training, so you should expect some decent knowledge gaps during your practice exam. But you should see some strong improvements in your performance by now. Let your practice exam results direct your ongoing training.*

Work your flashcards until you start dreaming Server 2012 concepts, acronyms, and PowerShell cmdlets! Visit [quizlet.com](#) or continue working with your own flashcards.

Explore Microsoft's TechNet [Scripting with Windows PowerShell](#) to dive deeper with PowerShell.

30. The Configure and Manage Group Policy Section

31. Configure Group Policy Processing

 26  30-90

32. Configure Group Policy Settings

 24  30-90


33. Manage Group Policy Objects (GPOs)

 12  30-90

34. Configure Group Policy Preferences (GPP)

 16  30-90

TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!

 90-120

### EXTRA MILE

#### TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM!

Use the results to drive your review and practice as you continue your study\*.

- [Transcender Microsoft Cert - 70-411](#)

*\*You should see strong improvements in your performance by now! Measure your improvement and let your practice exam results guide your study ahead of your certification exam.*

Schedule your certification exam with an approved testing site. Consider purchasing the [Microsoft Exam Replay](#) voucher to help ensure your success on the 70-411 certification exam!

#### VIRTUAL LABS

Work through your flashcards to really master the content that can be committed to memory.

 30-90

#### TAKE THE PRACTICE EXAM! One last time ...

[Transcender Microsoft Cert - 70-411](#)

Return to video Nuggets to brush up on areas of weakness identified by your practice exam results.

 90-120

#### VIRTUAL LABS

Flashcards: They worked for you in grade school, they can work for you now!

 30-90

#### VIRTUAL LABS

Flashcards are an excellent way to work on acronyms you'll need to know for your exam.

 30-90

#### VIRTUAL LABS

CRAM SESSIONS  
Return to topics that you find challenging to brush up on the material.

 30-90

### EXTRA MILE

Learn more about [Group Policy](#) from Microsoft's TechNet. Deepen your understanding about [Group Policy Preferences](#) from Microsoft's TechNet.

Spend some time working through the virtual labs every day to help ensure you have the hands-on experience you need to be successful on the exam.

## THE BIG DAY

Take the exam.

Get a good night's sleep  
ahead of your exam!



**Brag about it! Tweet us or let us know  
how your exam went and what you're  
doing to celebrate your success!**



The MCSA: Windows Server 2012 certification puts you on the path to a career in system administration, but also opens up other pathways as well, including networking, virtualization, security, cloud computing, system administration, and more. Consider these pathways as you move beyond your MCSA:

ENTRY LEVEL				INTERMEDIATE				ADVANCED	
NETWORKING									
CompTIA Network+	Cisco CCENT	Juniper JNCIA-Junos		CCNA Routing and Switching	CCNP Routing and Switching	Juniper JNCIS-ENT	Palo Alto Networks Firewall		Cisco CCIE Routing and Switching
SECURITY									
CompTIA Security+	Cisco CCENT			CCNA Security	CCNP Security	Penetration Testing with Linux Tools	EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker		(ISC) <sup>2</sup> CISSP Cisco CCIE Security
VIRTUALIZATION									
CompTIA Network+	VMware vSphere Foundation			MCSA: Windows Server 2016	CCNA Data Center	VMware VCP6.5-DCV	Cisco CCNP Data Center		MCSE: Cloud Platform and Infrastructure
CLOUD COMPUTING									
LPI Linux LPIC-1 and CompTIA Linux+	AWS: Technical Essentials			AWS: Certified Solutions Architect - Associate	AWS: Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate	MCSA: Cloud Platform	MCSA: Linux on Azure		MCSE: Cloud Platform and Infrastructure
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION									
CompTIA A+	LPI Linux LPIC-1 and CompTIA Linux+	VMware vSphere Foundation	Powershell 4 Foundations (no associated certification)	MCSA: Windows Server 2016	Microsoft MCSA: Windows 10	MCSA: Office 365	VMware vSphere 6.5 (VCP6.6-DCV)		MCSE: Cloud Platform and Infrastructure

## CAREER PATHWAYS

CBT Nuggets is committed to providing you with the resources necessary to plan your training, certification, and career pathway effectively and efficiently. Review our Career Pathway blog posts to learn more.

- [Mapping Your IT Networking Career Pathway](#)
- [Mapping Your IT Networking Career Pathway Infographic](#)
- [Unlocking Your IT Security Career Pathway](#)
- [Decoding Your IT SysAdmin Career Pathway](#)
- [Charting Your IT Cloud and Virtualization Career Pathway](#)
- [Engineering Your IT DevOps Career Pathway](#)

### **Roadmap to Success: MCSA: Windows Server 2012**

Learn more about the MCSA certification from the CBT Nuggets blog. The [Roadmap to Success: MCSA: Windows Server 2012](#) is part of a [series of blog posts](#) designed to help learners better understand certification pathways, career opportunities associated with those certifications, and next steps beyond certification.

## THE NEXT STEP

The MCSA is a building block to allow learners to earn a variety of other certifications from Microsoft. After earning the MCSA Windows Server 2012 certification, most learners take the next step by earning an MCSE (Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert) certification. The MCSE allows learners to select from a variety of elective exams, effectively customizing the certification to meet their unique needs. The expert-level certification aligned with the MCSA: Windows Server 2012 is the MCSE: Cloud Platform and Infrastructure certification. To earn the MCSE, learners must choose one elective exam from a pool of exam options:

- [70-532](#)
- [70-533](#)
- [70-534](#)
- [70-473](#)
- [70-475](#)
- [70-744](#)
- [70-413](#)
- [70-414](#)
- [70-246](#)
- [70-247](#)

Some learners may choose to diversify their certification resumes by pursuing certifications outside the Microsoft universe. Those who choose this path often consider the following certifications:

- [Cisco CCNA Routing and Switching](#) (made up of two exams: [ICND1](#) and [ICND2](#))
- [AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate](#) (made up of one exam: [AWS Certified SysOps Administrator - Associate](#))
- [VMware vSphere 6.5](#) (made up of one exam: [VCP6.5-DCV](#))